

Christianizing Christendom

This is the title of a very valuable book just published by Rev. Samuel Leslie Morris, D. D., LL.D., our secretary of Home Missions. In the opening chapter he says:

"Christianity looks two ways. It looks Godward and it looks manward. It looks upward and it looks downward. It looks heavenward and it looks earthward. It is this feature that differentiates it from all other systems of religion." "Christianity is the spirit of Christ in action."

Dr. Morris begins by showing the need of Christianizing America. In a population of 107,000,000 only 42,000,000 are connected with any church. Of this number 15,000,000 are Roman Catholics. There are 2,000,000 Jews, Mormons, Christian Scientists and Russellites. This leaves 25,000,000 Protestants. He says that "estimating regenerate Protestantism at two-thirds of its enumerated strength and Roman Catholics at one-half would give 25,000,000." and allowing, according to government estimates 17,000,000 for children under ten years of age, there remain 65,000,000 adults in this country who are not Christians by any form of profession. And yet we call this a Christian nation.

Nor is it becoming more Christian than it has been. The population of the country is increasing at the rate of 1,620,000 a year and yet the church membership is increasing only 600,000 a year.

Speaking of the growth of the churches in this country Dr. Morris shows that for the ten years from 1906 to 1916 the average growth was 19.9 per cent. That of the Southern Presbyterian Church was 37.7 per cent., leading all the churches of the United States in percentage of growth.

Recognizing all the power of the Christian religion Dr. Morris shows that, judged by their fruits, the professors of this religion do not show the same sturdy character in this and other countries which was shown by their ancestors of a few generations ago.

Christianizing America.

He shows that if America is Christianized it must be by the lives, the service and the sacrifice of the members of the Church. America should be Christianized, not only for its own sake, but because of its influence in the world, now greater than it has ever been.

Foreign Missions.

In speaking of Foreign Mission work he calls attention to the fact that the United Presbyterian Church leads all other Presbyterian churches in this country with its contribution to this cause of \$3 per member. The Southern Church follows with a contribution of \$2 per member, while the Northern Church gives \$1 per member. In the success of the work our Church stands second to none. In ten years the membership of the churches in our foreign fields has grown from 15,000 to 41,337, an increase of 175 per cent. But during that same time the population of our fields has grown from 25,000,000 to 32,000,000. At the rate we are winning the heathen for Christ, if our field did not increase any more in population than it is now it would take us 5,375 years to accomplish our task. Heathenism all over the world is gaining rapidly on Christianity.

Christianity and the World War.

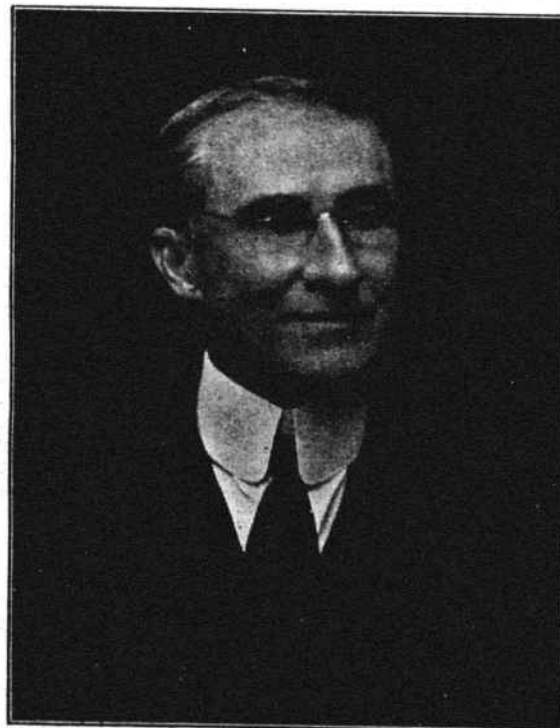
In the chapter on this subject Dr. Morris has gathered together a great many interest-

ing and instructive facts, and he presents the whole matter in a most suggestive way. He shows that God's overruling hand is in it all, and that He will assuredly bring good out of it all.

In answering the question, asked so often in connection with the world war: "Has not Christianity broken down in Europe?" he replies: "No, Christianity has not broken down; it has scarcely yet been tried in Europe. It is modern civilization, veneered with nominal Christianity, that has broken down, and that from the lack of Christianity."

Christianity and the Crisis.

The world, this country and the Church are all passing through a crisis. The danger to the Church is that she may allow other things to crowd Christianity out of it. The chief danger is from things that are right and good in themselves. The Church needs to be prepared and on the outlook to see and to carry out its responsibilities. One danger lies in the attacks



Rev. Samuel Leslie Morris, D. D., LL.D.,
Secretary of the Executive Committee of Home
Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States, Atlanta, Ga.

being made upon the Church by some of those who have only recently been calling upon it for help.

Presbyterianism.

Our author says: "Despite union movements there will be a reaction in a counter movement based upon the conviction that God will have a greater need for Presbyterianism in this serious crisis than ever in the history of the world. The Presbyterian Church has been characterized by three things in the past, and for their sakes it deserves perpetuation and will assuredly stand as firm as Gibraltar." These three things are testimony, sacrificial service and missionary spirit, and added to these is the divine approval.

Christianity and Unity.

Unity is essential to the best work of the Church, union is not. He treats this subject from a historical standpoint, then shows what has been done by the Presbyterian and Reformed churches to express this unity. He shows, however, that while the theory is all right the practice of the principles has not always been what it might have been.

Overchurching.

Much is said by many writers and speakers about the country being overchurched and having more ministers than the population demands. Dr. Morris shows conclusively that this is not true and that in very few cases is there any overlapping of churches and work to the detriment of the common cause. An investigation of a joint committee of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches showed that the Northern Church had on its roll 9,928 churches and that the Southern had 3,442, and yet with all these 13,370 churches there are only 57 places of less than 5,000 population where churches of the two denominations are found together. Dr. Morris shows that there are vast numbers of communities where no church is at work. These places offer room and opportunity for all the work that can be done by all the churches.

The Race Problem.

In a clear, sane and practical way the negro question is discussed. Conditions as they exist, North and South, are given. It is shown that there are abundant opportunities in each section that will give all of the churches all that they can do. The most important thing is to give the negro the gospel.

The New Era.

As one reads this concluding chapter he can but be wonderfully impressed with what has been accomplished, but far more with the task that still lies before the Church. The opportunities for doing a great work were never so numerous or attractive as they are today. The resources of the Church are unlimited. Sacrificial service is all else that is needed to enable Christianity to do its great work of winning the world for Christ.

The Book.

This little volume of 206 pages is well printed in large, clear type, on good paper. It is divided into chapters with subheadings that are helpful in reading and especially helpful for the study of the book. It will prove interesting, thought-awakening and helpful to any reader who has the welfare of the Church and the world at heart. It is specially well suited for the use of mission study classes. Its study will show to many great facts and truths which are new to them, and it ought to prove an inspiration and a challenge to consecrated service.

The Author.

Dr. Morris needs no introduction to our Church. He has been its Executive Secretary of Home Missions for the last eighteen years. During all these years he has been a student of missions and the need of mission work in this country, and there is probably no man in any Church more familiar with the work and needs in the South than he is.

He is a man of broad mind and clear vision and he has the faculty, as a writer, of presenting his thoughts clearly and concisely, and at the same time most interestingly. It is remarkable how much he has packed into the brief space of this book, and yet the reader will not have any feeling that what he has written is too much condensed.

The book can be bought from the Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va., for 40 cents in paper and 60 cents in cloth.

You have nothing but what God has lent you, and if He sees fit to call in what He has lent you, only for a time, you ought to be grateful that He lent it to you so long, rather than grieve that He has required His own.